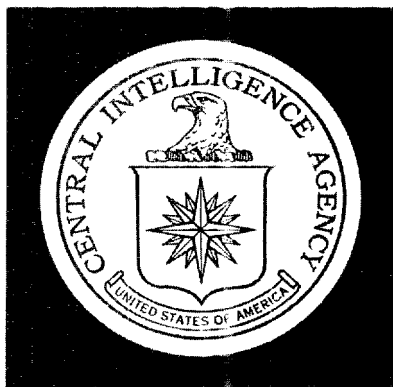


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Top Secret



DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam

Top Secret

117

6 November 1967

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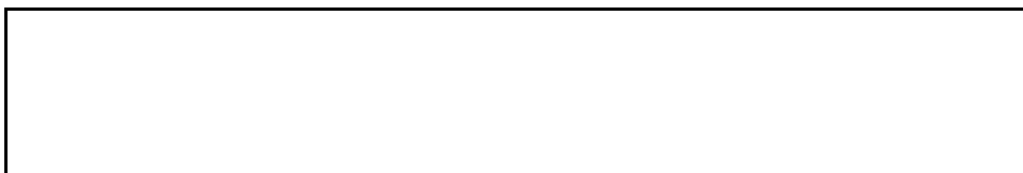
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Information as of 1600
6 November 1967

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HIGHLIGHTS

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I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:
Enemy activity in the region above Saigon shifted from Loc Ninh to the Song Be - Phuoc Binh area some 25 miles to the east on 5 November (Paras. 1-2). Meanwhile, there are indications of offensive activity in Kontum and Darlac provinces (Paras. 3-7). A number of small-unit actions were reported in widely scattered areas on 6 November (Paras. 8-11).

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V. Communist Political Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Enemy activity in the region above Saigon shifted from Loc Ninh to the Song Be - Phuoc Binh area some 25 miles to the east on 5 November. In two sharp skirmishes just three miles south of Song Be, 15 enemy troops and 15 South Vietnamese Army soldiers were killed. Three US advisers and another 30 South Vietnamese were wounded.

2. The enemy forces involved may have been part of the North Vietnamese 88th Regiment which launched a heavy ground assault against a South Vietnamese outpost in this area on 27 October--just before the Communists began their week-long assaults against Loc Ninh.

3. Meanwhile, there are signs that the enemy is getting ready to attack in two widely separated locations in the central highlands. In recent days several sharp skirmishes and enemy mortar attacks have broken the relative calm in Darlac Province and in the Dak To area of Kontum Province, some 120 miles to the north. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] suggest that more enemy attacks can be expected in these areas.

4. The rainy season in the highlands is ending. The trails are drying up, and general living conditions for troops in the jungle are improving. These factors work to the advantage of the Communists. US air support for isolated outposts, however, is at maximum efficiency during this period of good weather.

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5. The most recent enemy activity in Darlac consisted of a mortar barrage and ground probe against a US 4th Infantry night defensive position late on 3 November. Ten US soldiers were wounded. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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6. A more significant enemy operation appears to be under way to the north in Kontum Province. A recent defector reports a planned attack against the US Special Forces Camp at Dak To involving five North Vietnamese regiments. The defector states that the attack was to have begun on 28 October--coinciding with the offensive against Loc Ninh--but a postponement was forced because of "a failure in coordinating artillery."

7. The Communists are known to have five regiments in the Kontum area--the 32nd, 66th, 174th, and 24th. In addition, a 40th Artillery Regiment was mentioned by the defector, but the presence of this unit has not been confirmed. It is unlikely that the enemy would risk exposing all of these forces to allied fire power in a concentrated attack. Such forces could, however, be used against a particular outpost and various allied reaction forces.

8. Several small-unit actions were reported throughout widely scattered areas on 6 November.

9. US forces in coastal areas of Quang Nam Province reported killing 11 enemy soldiers in a series of five encounters on 6 November. There were no US casualties.

10. Twenty-seven enemy were killed some five miles west of Tam Ky in Quang Tin Province during an hour-long battle on 4 November, according to a delayed report. American casualties were one killed and one wounded.

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11. In Binh Dinh Province, an enemy company entered five villages some five miles west of An Khe in the early morning hours of 6 November and kidnaped 238 montagnard training cadre personnel. Two US patrols were sent out at dawn but made no contact with the enemy or with the missing montagnards.

12. In the Mekong Delta province of Kien Hoa, a South Vietnamese company engaged an estimated Communist platoon. The South Vietnamese patrol killed 18 enemy soldiers. Allied losses were light.

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